



## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 2016 Clean Diesel School Bus Rebate Program

### Application and Instructions

Nebraska's Clean Diesel School Bus Rebate program is offered by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to assist qualifying applicants to replace eligible older school buses with new buses powered by an EPA- or CARB-certified 2013 or newer model year engine. Over 45,000 Nebraska school children ride in school buses annually and at least one-half of those buses are older than 10 years. Many of these children are exposed to a disproportionate amount of diesel exhaust which can place them at greater risk for the associated harmful effects. In order to ensure emissions reductions are achieved through this program, the bus being replaced must be permanently disabled.

The total funding available for this year's program is \$200,020, which is made possible by the Environmental Protection Agency's State Clean Diesel Grant program. NDEQ will reimburse 25% of the base purchase cost of a newer, cleaner bus up to a maximum of \$20,000. NDEQ anticipates awarding ten rebates.

#### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

- Any Nebraska public or private school district/independent school system that offers primary or secondary education is eligible for this funding opportunity. Companies that own buses and have a current agreement with school districts/systems are also eligible to apply if they are either headquartered or have an operational base office in Nebraska.
- Previous Clean Diesel School Bus Rebate recipients are **not** eligible to apply for this rebate.

#### **ELIGIBLE VEHICLES**

- Eligible vehicles are operational Class 5 through Class 8 diesel-powered school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of 16,001lbs or greater and a 1991-2003 engine model year.
- The bus must be used currently to transport students to and from school or school-related activities. Applicants are required to certify that their bus meets these criteria on the application form.
- Applicants must certify on the rebate application that their current bus was not scheduled for replacement before September, 2019.

#### **ELIGIBLE REPLACEMENT BUSES**

- School buses with EPA- or CARB-certified 2013 or newer model year engines. The replacement school bus may operate using conventional diesel (ULSD) or alternative fuels (e.g. natural gas, propane, etc.) or use electric or hybrid drivetrains. Diesel engines must be equipped with a diesel particulate filter (DPF).
- The replacement school bus must be in the same or similar weight class and operate in the same manner as the original school bus. If the horsepower of the new bus exceeds the horsepower of the old bus by more than 25%, **prior** approval by NDEQ and EPA Region 7 must be obtained before purchasing the new bus.
- The new bus cannot be used to expand the applicant's current fleet but must replace a bus that is currently operational and in use.
- If selected for an award, the rebate recipient must maintain ownership of the new school bus for at least three years from the date of purchase. If the new school bus is sold before the end of the three-year period or used for purposes other than what is allowed under this program, the rebate recipient may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to NDEQ. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of NDEQ, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.



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### **APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE:**

To qualify for a Clean Diesel School Bus rebate, submit the attached Application Form and the supporting documents listed in the Application Materials Checklist before **5:00 pm on November 4, 2016**. Only **one application per applicant** will be accepted, and only **one bus rebate is allowed per application**.

***Applications will only be accepted if complete and received in the NDEQ Lincoln office on or before 5:00 pm November 4, 2016.***

Applications that are received or remain incomplete after **5:00 pm on November 4, 2016** will be ineligible.

If the number of eligible applications is greater than the number of available rebates, NDEQ will hold a public drawing on November 9, 2016 at 10:30 am CDT to determine the rebate recipients. The drawing will be held at the NDEQ Office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, NE 68509, in Room 424. All applications that are determined to be eligible will have an equal chance of being selected.

All eligible applications will be drawn and will be placed in the corresponding order. NDEQ will reserve rebate funds for the first ten applicants drawn, while the remaining applicants will be held on the alternate list. If an applicant on the rebate list withdraws or is disqualified, funds will be offered to the next applicant on the alternate list.

### **REBATE ACCEPTANCE:**

1. All rebate recipients must sign an agreement with NDEQ. ***The new bus cannot be purchased until the signed agreement is on file at NDEQ.***
2. Once NDEQ has received the signed agreement, the applicant will be notified that they can complete the purchase of the new bus. **Note: The date of the purchase order cannot pre-date the date the agreement was signed.**

**REIMBURSEMENT TIMELINE:** By **August 15, 2017**, the selectee must have completed the following:

1. Accept delivery of the new bus;
2. Scrap the old bus in accordance with the program requirements\*; and
3. Submit the Final Report Form, the Request for Reimbursement Form and all required supporting documentation once the new bus has been received and purchased in full.

Once the reimbursement documents have been received, NDEQ may perform an inspection (if necessary). After the documents have been reviewed and approved, NDEQ will issue the rebate funds.

### **\*Scrappage:**

The old bus being replaced must be scrapped (permanently disabled) prior to submission of the reimbursement request to NDEQ. Scrappage consists of:

1. Cutting a 3" by 3" hole completely through the engine block.
2. Cutting through the chassis frame rails on either side between the front and rear axles.

For complete scrappage documentation requirements, refer to the **2016 School Bus Rebate Program** web page at <http://deg.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/pages/12-003>.



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#### **APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST**

Use the following checklist to ensure you've submitted all required materials with your application. A complete application will include all the documents listed below. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

- ☐ Completed and signed application form.
- ☐ An organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the rebate form. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B website at: [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com).
- ☐ Photocopy of the Nebraska vehicle registration for the bus being replaced.
- ☐ Photocopy of the title of the bus being replaced.
- ☐ Photograph of the bus (side profile) being replaced showing the vehicle unit identifying number.

#### **SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION**

Only signed and dated original applications received by mail, e-mail, or in person at the address below will be accepted. Rebate applications cannot be submitted by fax. **The application deadline is 5:00 pm November 4, 2016. Applications received after 5:00 pm on November 4, 2016 will not be eligible. Applications that remain incomplete after 5:00 pm on November 4, 2016 will also not be eligible.** The department is not responsible for any applications that are delayed or lost in the mail. Applicants will receive an e-mail confirming NDEQ's receipt of the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their application was received by the department by the respective deadline.

Mail, e-mail, or hand-deliver applications to:

Nebraska Clean Diesel Rebate Program  
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
1200 N Street, Suite 400  
Lincoln NE 68509-8922  
[NDEQ.AirQuality@nebraska.gov](mailto:NDEQ.AirQuality@nebraska.gov)

Questions? Email us at [NDEQ.AirQuality@nebraska.gov](mailto:NDEQ.AirQuality@nebraska.gov)



**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**2016 Clean Diesel School Bus Rebate Program**  
**Application**

**Section 1 – Applicant Information**

School/Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Manager (if different from authorized signatory): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip Code

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Taxpayer No. (EIN/TIN): \_\_\_\_\_ DUNS Number: \_\_\_\_\_

County in which school bus operates: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2 – Original Bus Information**

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)	
Bus Unit Number	
Vehicle make	
Vehicle model	
Vehicle year	
Engine model	
Engine model year	
Engine manufacturer	
Engine EPA Family Name (see FAQ for more information)	
Engine horsepower	
Gross Vehicle Weight Rating	
Fuel Type	
Annual Fuel Consumption	
Idling Hours (annual)	
Annual number of miles traveled	



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#### Section 3 – Early Replacement Statement

EPA requires that buses to be replaced are not within their normal attrition cycle (*i.e.* they were not scheduled to be replaced by September, 2019). Describe below the circumstances that would normally lead you to replace a school bus. For instance, at a specific age, specific mileage, until no longer mechanically sound, etc. If you have a written policy, attach a copy of it with your application.

#### Section 4 – Applicant Certification

**Owner or Authorized Representative:** I certify to the best of my knowledge that:

- The information contained herein is true and correct.
- The school bus was not scheduled for replacement prior to September, 2019.
- The school bus would not have been replaced without financial assistance from EPA.
- The school bus being replaced is currently in use, in proper working condition, and is currently used to transport students to and from school and school-related activities. If selected for an award, the new school bus will perform these same functions.
- If selected for an award, the school/company will maintain ownership of the replacement school bus for at least three years from the date of purchase. I understand that if the replacement school bus is sold before the end of the three-year period or used for purposes other than specified in the conditions of this grant program, the school may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to NDEQ. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of NDEQ, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- The new bus will not be used for fleet expansion.
- The applicant is either headquartered or has an operational base in Nebraska and the new bus will continue to operate in Nebraska.
- The bus to be replaced will be properly disposed of in accordance with the requirements of this grant.
- I understand that I will not be eligible for any projects in which costs were incurred before the project period began and after the project period ends.
- I am not currently debarred or suspended from receiving federal funding.
- I have the legal authority to sign this agreement.
- I acknowledge that failure to provide all applicable information and supporting documentation may result in the denial of my application.

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Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative

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Signature

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Date